

SENATE FILE NO. SF0004

Wildlife conservation account.

Sponsored by: Joint Transportation, Highways & Military
Affairs Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to wildlife conservation; authorizing
2 acceptance and solicitation of donations for wildlife
3 conservation efforts related to the transportation system;
4 and providing for an effective date.

5

6 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

7

8 **Section 1.** W.S. 31-2-231(a) and (b) is amended to read:

9

10 **31-2-231. Wildlife conservation license plates;**
11 **wildlife conservation account; authority to receive and**
12 **expend monies.**

13

14 (a) Any person required to register a vehicle in
15 Wyoming pursuant to this article may apply to the department

1 for a statement of eligibility for wildlife conservation
2 license plates for any motor vehicle that is not a commercial
3 vehicle or multipurpose vehicle owned or leased by that person
4 upon registration of the vehicle. The department may include
5 as part of the application the option for the applicant to
6 donate an additional amount in support of wildlife
7 conservation. Upon payment by the applicant of a fee of one
8 hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) to the department, plus any
9 additional voluntary amount, the department shall issue a
10 written statement of eligibility for wildlife conservation
11 license plates. The department shall assess an annual fee of
12 fifty dollars (\$50.00) for a person to retain eligibility for
13 wildlife conservation plates, but this annual fee shall not
14 be charged in the year the person pays the one hundred fifty
15 dollars (\$150.00) eligibility fee. The person may submit an
16 additional voluntary amount in support of wildlife
17 conservation when remitting the annual fee.

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19 (b) The fees collected under subsection (a) of this
20 section shall be payable to the department and shall be
21 accounted for separately. The fees collected shall be
22 distributed to the wildlife conservation account within the
23 state highway fund, which is hereby created. The wildlife

1 conservation account shall be administered in accordance with
2 the following:

3
4 (i) Funds in the wildlife conservation account are
5 continuously appropriated to the department and shall only be
6 used to provide for wildlife conservation efforts related to
7 the transportation system, including signage, wildlife
8 corridors, wildlife crossings and game fences. The
9 department, after consultation with the commission, may
10 expend money received and the proceeds or other property
11 likewise received and disposed of by the department for the
12 purposes of this section;

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14 (ii) The department may establish methods to
15 accept voluntary contributions in support of wildlife
16 conservation efforts related to the transportation system for
17 deposit into the wildlife conservation account. The
18 department may suggest and solicit specific contribution
19 amounts;

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21 (iii) The department, in consultation with the
22 commission, shall have the authority to receive and credit to
23 the wildlife conservation account, any money or property of

1 any kind or character, donated, granted or bequeathed to the
2 commission, the department or the state of Wyoming for
3 wildlife conservation efforts related to the transportation
4 system and to carry out the terms, if any, of the grant,
5 donation or bequest, or in the absence of any terms or
6 limitations, to expend the money or the proceeds of the
7 property as it may deem advisable for wildlife conservation
8 efforts related to the transportation system under the
9 provisions of this section;

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11 (iv) The state treasurer is hereby authorized and
12 directed to receive and credit to the wildlife conservation
13 account any grant, donation or bequest that is made to the
14 commission, the department or the state of Wyoming for
15 wildlife conservation efforts related to the transportation
16 system that contains a condition or restriction that the
17 income only therefrom shall be expended for the purposes
18 provided by this section. The state treasurer shall invest
19 any money received under this paragraph in accordance with
20 law and the interest received thereon shall be deposited into
21 the wildlife conservation account.

22

1 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2020.

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(END)